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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00806 061705Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 INR-01 ADS-00 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-01 /006W
-----OC169B 061706Z /38

O 061708Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6811
AMEMBASSY ANTIGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GRENADA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 00806

USIAC

USIA FOR P/M, P/F, P/PFL, AR/COTTER, VOA/BX, VOA/BXN
- MEEK, VOA/BRL
STATE FOR ARA/CAR, ARA/P

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA

1. THE BRIDGETOWN PAPER " THE BARBADOS ADVOCATE"
DEALS WITH THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN VENEZUELA IN ITS
FEBRUARY 6 EDITORIAL. THE EDITORIAL CONNECTS THE COUP
TO IMF AUSTERITY PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED IN THAT COUNTRY.

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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 00806 061705Z

2. "THE ATTEMPT EARLIER THIS WEEK TO OVERTHROW
PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA IS ANOTHER
SIGN OF THE ON-GOING UNREST IN THAT COUNTRY. IT IS
DESPERATION THAT IS GROUNDED IN HARSHIPS THAT COME
IN THE TRAIN OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AUSTERITY
PROGRAMMES.

3. "... IN RECENT MONTHS... THERE HAS BEEN GROWING
UNREST IN VENEZUELA AS THE COUNTRY HAS TRIED TO LIVE
WITH AN IMF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM WHICH HAS
UNDERMINED THE VENEZUELANS' STANDARD OF LIVING. LATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUL 2008 200503656

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LAST YEAR THERE WERE RIOTS SPARKED BY RISING PRICES,
IN WHICH PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN CLASHES WITH THE
POLICE.

4. " ACCORDING TO REPORTS THE VENEZUELAN ECONOMY HAS
BEGUN TO SHOW AN UPTURN BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN GREAT
PG 2 UNCLASSIFIED

EXT

ENOUGH TO REGISTER ANY APPRECIABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE
PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARDS. RISING PRICES ARE STILL A
BOther AND PEOPLE CONTINUE TO TAKE THEIR DISCONTENT
AND ANGER TO THE STREETS.

5. " SO FAR THE MAJORITY OF THE ARMED FORCES
PERSONNEL HAS REMAINED LOYAL TO PRESIDENT PEREZ. BUT
THE ATTEMPTED COUP BY PARATROOP REBELS SHOWS THAT
THERE IS A DEEPENING DISCONTENT WHICH HAS NOW REACHED
THE ARMED FORCES.

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PAGE 03 BRIDGE 00806 061705Z

6. " WHEREAS MANY OF THE RECENT MILITARY REVOLTS IN
LATIN AMERICA HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF IDEOLOGICAL
DIFFERENCES, WHAT HAS NOW SURFACED IN VENEZUELA IS
DIRECTLY RELATED TO ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS AND IS ANOTHER
EXAMPLE OF THE HIGH PRICE SOME POLITICAL LEADERS ARE
FORCED TO PAY WHEN THEIR COUNTRIES STRUGGLE WITH IMF
PROGRAMMES.

7. "...WE NOW HAVE THE DEVELOPMENTS IN VENEZUELA. THE
DESPERATION THAT CITIZENS EXPERIENCE AS ONE OF THE
IMPLICATIONS OF IMF AUSTERITY PROGRAMMES CANNOT BE
EASILY DISREGARDED BY GOVERNMENTS WHEN THEY TURN TO
THE IMF IN TRYING TO GET THEIR ECONOMIES BACK ON
TRACK." WATERS

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